

SNC Reference Number (enter if previously assigned)
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PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Tulare

Applicant: WildPlaces

Project Title: Tule River Site Education and Interpretation Enhancement Project

PROJECT GOAL

The project goal is to further reduce land and river litter/graffiti and the incidence of human-caused wildfire by educating residents and visitors of the Tule River while decreasing cultural conflicts and preserving key cultural and natural resources through community-driven efforts.

PROJECT SCOPE

The project entails several tasks including development of a bi-lingual river docent program that will train docents and increase educational outreach to river-users, creating a strong positive presence in areas along the Tule where illegal and dangerous activities occur. Docents' time will be spent conducting outreach on the river (60%); conducting outreach through meetings and presentations with community (30%); and follow-up activities/reports (10%). From May - Sept. The number of days on the river conducting outreach from 20 to 60 over two summer seasons.

An increase in the geographic range of the existing project to Quaking Aspen Meadow will add an additional 20 miles (including the headwater) and fifty acres. This increase will be augmented through volunteer and staff capacity and by utilizing GPS units to track/collect data on user trails, graffiti locations, high use areas and for educational purposes. WildPlaces and the Tule River Partnership will manage all logistical, financial and volunteer activities for the project through 2010. In addition, the project will utilize the extensive contact lists created under the Tule River Site Improvement Project (#070230) as well as increase the number of river presentations to community groups, agencies and individuals by twenty-five (a fifty percent increase) thereby expanding partnerships and the number of individual volunteers.

It will also create a training program for staff and volunteers in the use of Global Positioning Satellites units (GPS) and utilize the information gathered by the units to create and distribute maps of the river, its high use areas, user trails and graffiti. Additionally the enhancement will be used to develop/implement online information "kiosk" to provide web-based information, maps, video, photographs, relevant articles and a blog site in order to reach river users, policy makers, community leaders and stakeholders. It will however place particular emphasis on attracting the youth population through interactive social networks.

WildPlaces' website consultant is already onboard to help develop online information "kiosk" and local advertisers will be secured to purchase ads and thereby create revenue. Lastly, the enhancement will create interpretive signage for the river that will increase the awareness of river users as to the cultural and natural resource importance of the Tule River Watershed.

The tasks and desired outcome of the enhancement will be supported by the two other major partners that make up the Tule River Partnership (TRP): the USDA Forest Service and Community Services Employment Training (CSET). WildPlaces is also supported by a number of groups and organizations as well; please see Appendix A for the specific roles of the partners and groups.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

(See Appendix C) Kern County Superintendent of Schools, U.S. Forest Service, CSET, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Community Water Center, Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
INCLUDE SPECIFIC TASKS IDENTIFIED IN SCOPE AND ALL REPORTS, ETC.	ASSUME START DATE 60 DAYS AFTER SNC BOARD AUTHORIZATION
Recruitment and training of Tule River docent program	Feb. – April 2009
Increase number of days on the river conducting river outreach presentations from twenty to sixty.	May 2009 – May 2010
Increase range of Tule River Watershed up to Quaking Aspen Meadow	May 2009
Deliver Tule River outreach presentations to reach an additional 25 community groups and organizations	May – Sept. 2009, May – Sept. 2010
GPS mapping of river and surrounding habitat; create photo point documentation	May 2009 – ongoing
Develop/Implement online self-sustaining Tule River information kiosk	May 2009 - ongoing
Create designs for interpretive signage and gather resources for effective sign content	May 2009 – May 2010

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Docent Program implementation two seasons	\$ 20,320
Design/Produce bi-lingual Education Material	\$4,000
Mileage (Project related)	\$2,450
Online River Information Kiosk design and development	\$3,000
Design and develop bi-lingual Interpretive Signage	\$3,000
Program equipment and supplies (Appendix D Budget Detail)	\$5,000
Performance Measurement and Reporting	\$1000
Direct Project Administrative Expenses	\$5,800
	\$
	\$
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$44,570